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EXAMINER

AILES, BENJAMIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2142

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,122

Applicant(s)

ZHUANG ET AL.

Examiner

Benjamin A. Ailes

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/03 (2)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-60 have been examined.
2. The specification has been checked but not to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification that the examiner has missed.

#### ***Specification***

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - Page 2, paragraph 0005, line 6, "PRC" should be changed to "RPC."
  - Page 11, paragraph 0038, line 5, "servet" should be changed to "servlet."
  - Page 11, paragraph 0039, line 2, "filer" should be changed to "filter."
  - Page 14, paragraph 0048, line 6, "manger" should be changed to "manager."
  - Page 16, paragraph 0056, line 3, "gent" should be changed to "agent."
  - Page 25, paragraph 0087, line 6, "registration" should be changed to "registration."

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Drawings***

4. The drawings are objected to because a spelling error exists in figure 9. Part 255, "Producer Rigistry" should be changed to "Producer Registry." Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should

Art Unit: 2142

include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

5. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 3 of the claim, "srver" should be changed to "server." Appropriate correction is required.
6. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 2 of the claim, "wb" should be changed to "web." Appropriate correction is required.
7. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 5 of the claim, "listender" should be changed to "listener." Appropriate correction is required.

8. Claim 27 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 5 of the claim, "messagin" should be changed to "messaging."

Appropriate correction is required.

9. Claim 38 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 3 of the claim, "fiter" should be changed to "filter." Appropriate correction is required.

10. Claim 38 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 5 of the claim, "filer" should be changed to "filtering." Appropriate correction is required.

11. Claim 50 is objected to because of the following informalities: A spelling error is present on line 5 of the claim, "messagin" should be changed to "messaging." Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

12. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

13. Claims 12-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

14. Claim 12 recites the limitation "the event producer" in lines 4, 7, and 11-12 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Art Unit: 2142

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

16. Claims 1-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by MacNaughton et al. (U.S. 6,020,884), hereinafter referred to as MacNaughton.

17. Regarding claim 1, MacNaughton discloses a system comprising:

a client for making a request and receiving a response (col. 4, lines 15-26, and col. 13, lines 11-20);

a web s[e]rver for forwarding the request from the client and forwarding the response to the client using a web protocol (col. 4, lines 15-26, and col. 13, lines 11-20);

an event producer for updating a message board (col. 4, lines 19-21);

a remote messaging facility server connecting to the web server for receiving the request from the client and for generating the response based on said request, said response being generated with respect to an event subscribed by the client and triggered by said updating performed by the event producer on the message board, said response being sent to the client via the web server (col. 3, lines 54-66, and col. 6, lines 30-34).

18. Regarding claim 2, in accordance with claim 1, MacNaughton discloses the system wherein said client comprises:

a web client for initiating the request and for receiving the response (col. 6, lines 50-60); and

Art Unit: 2142

a remote messaging facility client, connecting to the web client, for managing, on behalf of the web client, a 2-way communication between the web client and the event producer via the web server and the remote messaging facility server (col. 6, lines 3-0-34).

19. Regarding claim 3, in accordance with claim 2, MacNaughton discloses the system wherein said client includes an event listener (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50).

20. Regarding claim 4, MacNaughton discloses a remote messaging facility client, comprising:

a session agent for managing a remote messaging session established between a web client and an event producer and for maintaining a persistent listening connection that listens to an event subscribed by the web client with a remote messaging facility server (col. 3, lines 60-66, col. 6, lines 41-47, and col. 7, lines 8-13);

a messaging agent for communicating with the remote messaging facility server on behalf of the web client during the remote messaging session, sending a request from the web client to the remote messaging facility server and receiving a response from the remote messaging facility server (col. 7, 10-20);

a message parser for parsing a response received by the messaging agent from the remote messaging facility server (col. 7, lines 27-36); and

an event manager for managing event subscription and dispatching of an event that is subscribed by the web client, received as a response from the remote messaging facility server, and parsed by the message parser (col. 9, lines 28-51).

21. Regarding claim 5, in accordance with claim 4, MacNaughton discloses the system further comprising:

a remote messaging facility client application programming interface, through which the web client communicates with the remote messaging facility client to issue a request, to subscribe an event, and to receive a response from the remote messaging facility server from the event manager (col. 9, lines 28-51).

22. Regarding claim 6, MacNaughton discloses a remote messaging facility server, comprising:

a session manager for managing a remote messaging session established with a web client via a remote messaging facility client and for maintaining a persistent listening connection that listens to an event subscribed by the web client, said web client issuing requests and receiving responses during the remote messaging session via the remote messaging facility client (col. 3, lines 60-66, col. 6, lines 41-47, and col. 7, lines 8-13, col. 7, 10-20);

a channel manager for managing zero or more channels designed for subscriptions of events, said managing associating each subscription with a channel to store the occurrences of the subscribed event and dispatching each stored event to the remote messaging facility client that represents the web client that subscribes the stored event (col. 9, lines 27-40); and

a message board comprising a plurality of slots for storing data, said data being manipulated by at least one event producer, manipulations of the data in said message board triggering different events (col. 4, lines 16-34, and col. 9, lines 41-49).



23. Regarding claim 7, in accordance with claim 6, MacNaughton discloses the system further comprising:

a message parser for parsing a request issued by a web client via a remote messaging facility client prior to generating a response for the request (col. 7, lines 27-36); and

a plurality of listener agents, each of which corresponding to a different slot in the message board and connecting to at least one channel that store subscribed event related to the slot, each listener agent listening to the subscribed event occurred in the slot and sending the subscribed event to a corresponding channel (col. 9, lines 27-40).

24. Regarding claim 8, in accordance with claim 7, MacNaughton discloses the system further comprising:

a producer registry for registering the at least one event producer (col. 9, lines 38-40);

an access control profile for recording access control information used by said session manager in managing a remote messaging session for a web client (col. 8, lines 58-60 and col. 13, lines 27-36); and

a base filter agent, connecting to the listener agents, for filtering a subscribed event prior to sending the subscribed event to a corresponding channel (col. 4, lines 35-41).

25. Regarding claim 9, in accordance with claim 8, MacNaughton discloses the system further comprising:

a remote messaging facility server application programming interface, through which the at least one event producer communicates with the remote messaging facility server to register, to manipulate the message board, and to communicate with the web client (col. 4, lines 16-27).

26. Regarding claim 10, MacNaughton discloses an event producer, comprising:

A data generator for generating data to be posted on a message board of a remote messaging facility server (col. 4, lines 15-26); and

A data manipulator for manipulating the message board using the data generated by the data generator (col. 4, lines 28-35).

27. Regarding claim 11, in accordance with claim 10, MacNaughton discloses the system, further comprising:

a session agent for performing authentication on a wb client that requests to establish a remote messaging session between the web client and the event producer via a remote messaging facility client and the remote messaging facility server, said authentication being requested by the remote messaging facility server (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37); and

a filter agent for filtering an event that is to be sent from the remote messaging facility server to the web client via the remote messaging facility client (col. 4, lines 35-41).

28. Regarding claim 12, MacNaughton discloses a method for web-enabled 2-way remote messaging, comprising:

establishing a remote messaging session between a web client and an event provider via a remote messaging facility client, connecting to the web client, and a remote messaging facility server, connecting to the event producer, the web client issuing requests and receiving responses during the remote messaging session (col. 3, lines 60-66, col. 6, lines 41-47, and col. 7, lines 8-13);

subscribing, by the web client via the remote messaging facility client, an event that is related to an action performed by the event producer on a slot of a message board located in the remote messaging facility server (col. 3, lines 54-66, and col. 6, lines 30-34);

listening, by a listener agent in the remote messaging facility server, the event, the listener agent connecting to a channel, dedicated to the web client, and the slot, the listener agent receiving a notification when the action associated with the event is performed by the event producer on the slot (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50); and

dispatching the notification from the remote messaging facility server to the web client via a web server and the remote messaging facility client, said notification being encoded by the web server using a web protocol to generate a response (col. 9, lines 28-34).

29. Regarding claim 13, in accordance with claim 12, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said requests includes at least one of:

a begin session request to start a remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 6-11);

an end session request to finish a remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 19-23);

a check session request to examine the status of a remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 53-60);

a subscribe event request to subscribe an event with the remote messaging facility server (col. 9, lines 6-11);

an unsubscribe event request to end a subscription of an event with the remote messaging facility server (col. 9, lines 19-23);

a query data request to inquiry a data item in the message board (col. 9, lines 60-64);

an listen event request to start a linstening connection (col. 9, lines 60-64); and

a post message request to post a message from the web client to a message handler associated with a slot in the message board (col. 9, lines 60-64).

30. Regarding claim 14, in accordance with claim 13, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said requests are encoded using a web protocol (col. 3, lines 54-65 and col. 6, lines 13-34).

31. Regarding claim 15, in accordance with claim 14, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said responses are encoded by said web server using a web protocol (col. 3, lines 54-65 and col. 6, lines 13-34).

32. Regarding claim 16, in accordance with claim 15, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein

said web protocol used to encode the requests includes HyperText Transport Protocol (col. 6, lines 13-34); and

said web protocol used by said web server to encode the responses includes HyperText Transport Protocol (col. 6, lines 13-34).

33. Regarding claim 17, in accordance with claim 14, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said establishing comprises:

sending a begin session request, by the web client via the remote messaging facility client and the web server, to the remote messaging facility server to establish the remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 6-11);

authenticating the web client with respect to the event producer to generate a decision of either positive or negative (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37); and

starting, by a session manager in the remote messaging facility server, the remote messaging session if the decision is positive (col. 7, lines 8-14).

34. Regarding claim 18, in accordance with claim 17, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said subscribing comprises:

sending a subscribe event request to the session manager to subscribe the event, the subscribe event request specifying the slot and the action (col. 9, lines 6-11);

setting up, by the session manager, a channel to store the occurrences of the event (col. 9, lines 27-40); and

connecting the channel with the listener agent associated with the slot of the message board (col. 9, lines 27-40).

35. Regarding claim 19, in accordance with claim 17, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said listening comprises:

sending an listen event request to the remote messaging facility server (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50);

setting up a listening connection, for the event subscribed in said subscribing, said listening connection associating with the channel dedicated to the web client (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50);

monitoring, by the listener agent connecting to both the channel and the slot, the action performed by the event producer on the slot that triggers the event (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50);

receiving the notification corresponding to the subscribed event when the action is performed by said event producer (col. 9, lines 28-34); and

adding, by the listener agent, the notification to the channel (col. 9, lines 27-40).

36. Regarding claim 20, in accordance with claim 19, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising filtering the notification prior to adding the notification to the channel (col. 4, lines 35-41).

37. Regarding claim 21, in accordance with claim 19, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein dispatching comprises:

forwarding, by a channel manager that manages the channel, the notification to the web server (col. 9, lines 28-34);

encoding, by the web server, the notification using the web protocol to generate the response (col. 6, lines 13-34); and

sending the response to the web client via the remote messaging facility client (col. 9, lines 28-34).

38. Regarding claims 22 and 45, MacNaughton discloses a method for a remote messaging facility client, comprising:

sending a begin session request for a web client, to a remote messaging facility server via a web server to establish a remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 6-11);

sending, if the remote messaging session requested by the begin session request is established, a subscribe event request to the remote messaging facility server to subscribe an event, the subscribe event request specifying a slot on a message board in the remote messaging facility server and an action wherein the event is defined with respect to the action performed on the slot by an event producer (col. 3, lines 54-66, and col. 6, lines 30-34);

receiving a response from the remote messaging facility server via the web server, said response encoding a notification of the event subscribed using a web protocol (col. 7, lines 8-14); and

dispatching the notification to the web client (col. 7, lines 28-34).

39. Regarding claims 23 and 46, in accordance with claims 22 and 45, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

sending an listen event request to the remote messaging facility server, prior to said receiving, to establish an listening connection to listen to the event (col. 3, lines 60-66, col. 6, lines 41-47, and col. 7, lines 8-13);

decoding the response, after said receiving, according to the web protocol to obtain the event (col. 9, lines 28-34); and

parsing the notification prior to said dispatching the notification to the web client (col. 9, lines 28-34).

40. Regarding claims 24, 39, and 47, MacNaughton discloses a method for a remote messaging facility server, comprising:

establishing a remote messaging session based on a begin session request sent from a web client via a remote messaging facility client and a web server (col. 3, lines 60-66, col. 6, lines 41-47, and col. 7, lines 8-13);

subscribing an event based on a subscribe event request specifying a slot on a message board in the remote messaging facility server and an action, wherein the event is defined with respect to the action performed on the slot by an event producer (col. 3, lines 54-66, and col. 6, lines 30-34);

listening, by an listener agent activated by an listen event request, the event, the listener agent connecting to a channel set up for the remote messaging session and to the slot and generating a notification of the event when the action associated with the event is performed on the slot by the event producer (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50); and

dispatching the notification of the event to the web client as a response via the web server and the remote messaging facility client, said notification being encoded by the web server using a web protocol to generate the response (col. 9, lines 28-34).



Art Unit: 2142

41. Regarding claims 25, 40, and 48, in accordance with claims 24, 39, and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein the establishing comprises:

receiving the begin session request from the web client, authenticating the web client (col. 9, lines 6-11, and col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37); and

starting the remote messaging session if the authentication passes (col. 7, lines 8-14).

42. Regarding claims 26, 41, and 49, in accordance with claims 24, 39, and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein the subscribing comprises:

receiving the subscribe event request from the web client (col. 9, lines 6-11);

setting up a channel associating with the remote messaging session (col. 9, lines 27-40); and

connecting the channel with a listener agent associated with the slot of the message board (col. 9, lines 27-40).

43. Regarding claims 27, 42, and 50, in accordance with claims 24, 39, and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein the listening comprises:

monitoring the slot on the message board to observe the event related to the action to be performed by the event producer on the slot (col. 4, lines 19-21, and col. 11, lines 42-50);

receiving the notification when the event is observed (col. 9, lines 28-34); and

adding the notification to the channel set up for the remote messagin session (col. 9, lines 27-34).

44. Regarding claims 28, 43, and 51, in accordance with claims 27, 42, and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

Filtering, by a filter agent, the notification prior to said adding (col. 4, lines 35-41).

45. Regarding claims 29 and 52, in accordance with claims 24 and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said dispatching comprises:

forwarding, by the channel, the notification to the web server (col. 9, lines 28-34);

encoding, by the web server, the notification using the web protocol to generate the response (col. 6, lines 13-34); and

sending the response to the web client via the remote messaging facility client (col. 9, lines 28-34).

46. Regarding claims 30 and 53, in accordance with claims 24 and 47, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising registering the event producer with the message board in the remote messaging facility server (col. 4, lines 16-27).

47. Regarding claim 31, in accordance with claim 31, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

specifying a session agent that authenticates a web client for the event producer (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37); and

specifying a filtering agent that filters an observed event associated with the event producer (col. 4, lines 35-41).

48. Regarding claims 32 and 54, in accordance with claims 30 and 53, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising updating, by an event producer, a slot of the message board (col. 4, lines 28-35).

Art Unit: 2142

49. Regarding claims 33 and 55, MacNaughton discloses a method for an event producer, comprising:

registering with a message board of a remote messaging facility server (col. 4, lines 16-27); and

updating a slot of the message board (col. 4, lines 28-31).

50. Regarding claims 34 and 56, in accordance with claims 33 and 55, MacNaughton discloses the method wherein said updating includes at least one of:

creating a slot;

clearing a slot;

deleting a slot;

posting data in a slot;

deleting data in a slot; and

changing data in a slot (col. 4, lines 28-35).

51. Regarding claims 35 and 57, in accordance with claims 33 and 55, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

Setting up an access control profile (col. 8, lines 58-60 and col. 13, lines 27-36).

52. Regarding claims 36 and 58, in accordance with claims 35 and 57, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

specifying a session agent that authenticates a web client for the event producer (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37); and

specifying a filter agent that filters an observed event associated with the event producer (col. 4, lines 35-41).

53. Regarding claims 37 and 59, in accordance with claims 36 and 58, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

receiving a request, after said specifying a session agent, from the remote messaging facility server to authenticate a web client, said web client requesting to establish a remote messaging session with the remote messaging facility server (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37);

authenticating, by said session agent, the web client according to the access control profile (col. 6, lines 35-41, and 61-66, and col. 13, lines 29-37).

54. Regarding claims 38 and 60, in accordance with claims 36 and 58, MacNaughton discloses the method further comprising:

receiving a request, after said specifying a filter agent, from an listener agent in the remote messaging facility server to filter a notification of an event associated with the event producer (col. 4, lines 35-41); and

filtering the notification (col. 4, lines 35-41).

55. Regarding claim 44, in accordance with claim 42, MacNaughton discloses the medium wherein said dispatching comprises:

forwarding, by a channel manager that manages the channel, the notification to the web server (col. 9, lines 28-34);

encoding, by the web server, the notification using the web protocol to generate the response (col. 6, lines 13-34); and

sending the response to the web client via the remote messaging facility client (col. 9, lines 28-34).

***Conclusion***

56. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

MacNaughton et al. (U.S. 6,433,795) discloses a system for integrating an on-line service community with a foreign service.

Sonnenreich et al. (U.S. 5,974,446) discloses an internet based distance learning system for communicating between server and clients wherein clients communicate with each other or with teacher using different communication techniques via common user interface.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin A. Ailes, whose telephone number is (571)272-3899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5).

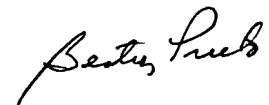
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached at (571)272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-3906.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2142

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [benjamin.ailles@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

  
**BEATRIZ PRIETO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Benjamin Ailes  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2142